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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0408  
INFO RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 7587  
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RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0162

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 000188

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/11/2018  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UN](#) [UNMIK](#) [PGOV](#) [YI](#) [EU](#) [AE](#)  
SUBJECT: LOBBYING FOR KOSOVO RECOGNITION

REFS: A) STATE 13716, B) ABU DHABI 171 AND PREVIOUS

Classified by CDA Martin Quinn, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) On February 10, the Charge met with UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammed Hussain al-Sha'ali to discuss, among other issues (septel), the need for as many nations as possible to recognize an independent Kosovo soon after independence is announced.

Al-Sha'ali acknowledged our assessment that broad recognition of the new state would contribute to stability. While not raising Russian sensitivities directly (as another MFA interlocutor had done -- see ref B), he asked "who might oppose" this move as a roundabout way of expressing the UAEG's potentially lukewarm position. Reminded again of the positive implications for stability of broad and immediate recognition, he stated, "We will look into it."

12. (C) Comment: While the UAE may not be out in front on recognizing Kosovo in the immediate aftermath of its declaration of independence, this demarche at least flagged the issue for them one more time. End comment.

QUINN